



Col. Edward T. Bohnemann (left) receives the brigade colors from Brig. Gen. Allen Batschelet as he officially assumed command of the 172nd Infantry Brigade "Blackhawks" here Jan. 26. Bohnemann and the new top ranking enlisted for the brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael W. Boom, took the reins of the Blackhawk brigade as a team in this unique dual assumption of command ceremony. The ceremony was scaled down considerably so as to maintain the primary focus of preparing the brigade for deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

# 172nd Infantry Brigade welcomes new commander

By Maj. Joseph P. Buccino, 172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs

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HEIDELBERG, Germany -- The 172nd Infantry Brigade ushered in a new era as Col. Edward T. Bohnemann assumed command of the "Blackhawks" here Jan. 26.

Bohnemann arrives from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he most recently served as an instructor at the School of Advanced Military Studies.

Bohnemann, who assumes command of the brigade as it prepares for a deployment to Afghanistan this summer, is an infantry officer with three combat tours. His military schooling includes the Command and General Staff School, the School of Advanced Military Studies, and the Advanced Operational Arts Studies Fellowship.

In 2007, he served as commander of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment under the 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, later reflagged the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. In 2008 Bohnemann deployed the battalion to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be here," Bohnemann told the audience at his assumption of command ceremony. "I have no doubt that we have the right leaders in place to train our Soldiers properly, build the team into an effective brigade combat team, take care of our Families, and execute our mission in Afghanistan."

Bohnemann made clear that his sole focus is preparing the brigade's Soldiers and families for the impending deployment. "Our charter is to ensure that all Soldiers in this brigade have the confidence to effectively conduct their mission and that the junior leaders are capable of adjusting to rapidly-changing conditions on the battlefield."